

Selections from Digital Archival, Manuscript and Library Collections

Explore the digital collections selected by expert staff from the State Historical Society of Iowa's [Library & Archives Research Centers](#) related to [Days of Learning: People & Places](#).

Featured Library Catalog Guide



Iowa Women's Archives Diversity and Social Justice Collections

Courtesy of Iowa Women's Archives (University of Iowa, Iowa City)

The [Iowa Women's Archives Diversity & Social Justice Subject Guide](#) highlights collections at the Iowa Women's Archives related to diversity and social justice – in particular, collections that speak to African-American life and history in Iowa and those that address diverse struggles for racial and social justice over time. [Materials on the Fight for Social Justice](#) include the fights for Latinx and LGBTQ rights, as well as collections that reveal the anti-racist work engaged in by individuals and organizations.

Featured Digital Archival Collections



Henry Hospers – Dutch Immigrant, Iowa Immigrant Leader

Courtesy of Northwestern College Archives (Orange City)

[Henry Hospers](#) arrived with early Dutch settlers in Pella in 1847, eventually serving as mayor, and later planted the Dutch colony in Orange City in 1871. An immigrant, businessman, Iowa immigration agent, state representative and state senator, Hospers was a major figure in the early days of some of Iowa's most distinct ethnic communities. This [digital collection](#) contains writings, a biography and images, including photos of Hospers among his colleagues in Iowa's 22nd and 23rd General Assemblies.



Making Northwest Iowa Home

Courtesy of Northwestern College Archives (Orange City)

Explore the early days of making the farthest northwest corner of Iowa home through a [series of memoirs and first-hand accounts](#) of settlement and community development in one of the final places in Iowa to be settled by American and European migrants in the nineteenth century.

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Featured Special Collections Manuscript Collection



"Jesse Jackson '88 Iowa Campaign Headquarters records, 1987-1988 (Manuscript Collection) (Des Moines)

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa Library & Archives

After a visit with rural issues activist Dixon Terry and local Democrats at Greenfield, Iowa, the [Reverend Jesse Jackson](#) chose that community as the headquarters from which to launch a 1988 presidential campaign that would address the current farm crisis alongside social justice and peace initiatives. Greenfield continued to serve as Jackson's touchstone through the following months and he would ultimately finish second in the national Democratic primary election. [Records from the Greenfield office in the State Historical Library and Archives collections](#) document Jackson's strategies and activities in Iowa through correspondence, speeches, event packets, publicity materials, political literature and photographs ([review collection in catalog](#)).

Image shows handbill for Jesse Jackson's campaign launch event at Greenfield, Iowa, in October 1987.

Featured Digital Library Collection



The Iowa State Bystander

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa Library & Archives

The [Iowa State Bystander](#) was established in Des Moines in 1894 as a four-page weekly to serve as the voice of Iowa's African-American community. It is one of the many [historic Iowa newspapers digitized](#) and available through the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The [State Historical Society of Iowa's entire historic newspaper collection](#) is made available for free to patrons (iowaculture.gov/newspapers).